

Policy: Emergency and Authorised Carer Assessment and Approval

Policy Purpose

To guide workers in the processes involved in the assessment and approval of a person who wishes to provide care to a child in the care of the CEO.

Policy Statement

Territory Families ensures that children in the care of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) have a safe and suitable place to live. When this placement is with an individual who is not a parent, the individual must be approved as being able to provide a safe and stable environment.

All Carers must be approved in accordance with legislation, regulations, and departmental policy and procedures before children can be placed in their care and before they can receive foster allowance and other supportive measures from Territory Families.

The assessment and approval process will ensure that only individuals who are eligible and are able to meet the requirements and responsibilities of an emergency or authorised carer as described in the *Care and Protection of Children (Placement Arrangement) Regulations* are approved as emergency or authorised carers.

Emergency carers

- Individuals will have passed all safety screening checks before they are approved as an emergency carer and before children are placed in their care.
- Each mature person who resides with the individual must also pass safety screening checks before the individual can be approved as an emergency carer.
- The term of approval for an emergency carer is either from the time the child is placed with the emergency carer to midnight three days after this date; or from the time child is placed with the emergency carer to the time when they are approved as authorised carer. This latter option is only available if the emergency carer applies to be an authorised carer within the first three days of the child being placed with them.

Authorised carers

- Carer applicants will have passed all safety screening checks before they are approved as an authorised carer and before children are placed in their care.
- The partner of an applicant must be a joint applicant if they live in the same house and function as a couple.
- Each mature person who resides with the applicant must also pass safety screening checks before the applicant can be approved as an authorised carer.
- Carer applicants will have attended induction training prior to their approval.
- All authorised carers' approval will be reviewed within the first 12 months and every two years after that.
- Authorised carers who have children placed with them must have their status re-approved before the expiry of their current term of approval.

Legislative Basis

[Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#)

[Care and Protection of Children \(Placement Arrangement\) Regulations 2010](#)

[Care and Protection of Children \(Screening\) Regulations 2010](#)

Standards

[Standards of Professional Practice](#)

[National Out for Home Care Standards](#)

[Charter of Rights for Children and Young People in Care in the Northern Territory](#)

Authorised by:

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